

# Safe, Shared Waterways: From Conversation to Action

## 17th Biennial National Harbor Safety Committee Conference

June 25-27, 2019  
Houston, Texas

*Organized by*  
Transportation Research Board

*Co-sponsored by*  
The Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee  
&  
The South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee

The Transportation Research Board, the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee, and the South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee are proud to announce the 17th Biennial National Harbor Safety Committee Conference being held June 25-27, 2019 at the Royal Sonesta Hotel and Conference Center in Houston, Texas.

This vital marine national transportation event continues to be one of the premier gatherings of waterways stakeholders from the private sector, government agencies, and academia. The conference is organized by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard. The Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee is the lead host for the conference, with the South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee (STWAC) serving as a co-host.

Harbor Safety Committees (HSCs) are local committees of waterways stakeholders addressing issues that include the safety, security, mobility, and environmental protection of our ports and waterways. Membership is typically composed of representatives from the local maritime industry and governmental agencies, as well as recreational boaters and the commercial fishing industry.

This three-day event enables HSCs from all parts of the nation to come together on a national basis to share best practices, discuss policy and regulatory issues, highlight solutions, dialogue with government agencies, and form relationships that enable a robust transfer of ideas in between gatherings. The conference typically draws 200-350 maritime professionals from throughout North America.

The conference will include panel sessions, keynote addresses from high-level officials, and networking opportunities for waterways stakeholders and service providers from across our nation. The panel sessions are designed to be highly interactive, allowing for an ongoing conversation between the presenters and the attendees.

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

*This conference would not have been possible without the combined efforts of many individuals and organizations. Special acknowledgement is given to the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee and the South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee.*

## **Conference Chair**

James Prazak, Tricon Energy and the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee

## **Conference Planning Committee Members**

LCDR William Albright, U.S. Coast Guard

Amy Arrowood, San Jacinto College

Captain Stuart Griffin, Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware

LCDR Ian Hanna, U.S. Coast Guard

Joe Harrington, Valero

Dennis Holland, U.S. Coast Guard

Rajiv Khandpur, U.S. Coast Guard

Lynn Korwatch, Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region

Todd Ripley, U.S. Maritime Administration

LCDR Sarah Rousseau, U.S. Coast Guard

Captain John Strong, Jacobsen Pilot Services

Xavier F. Valverde, Sr., G & H Towing Company

John Veentjer, Marine Exchange of Puget Sound

Liz Wainwright, Merchant's Exchange of Portland, Oregon

## **TRB Staff**

Scott Brotemarkle, Marine Board Program Director

Brie Schwartz, Marine Board Staff

Bruce Millar, Deputy Director, Meetings Department

Ted Jamele, Meetings Department Staff

# SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

	Tuesday, June 25, 2019	Wednesday, June 26, 2019	Thursday, June 27, 2019	
7:30am	TRB Marine Safety and Human Factors (AW040) Committee Meeting 9 AM – Noon	Breakfast & Exhibits	Breakfast & Exhibits	
8:30am		Session 3: Disaster Preparedness - Incident Management, Preparation, and Response	Session 7: The Role of Waterways Stakeholders in Vessel Traffic Safety and Security	
9:30am				Morning Break & Exhibits
10:30am		Session 4: Harbor Safety Committee Best Practices	Session 8: Continuous Improvement - Innovations in Training, Education, and Exercises	
11:30am				Closing Keynote Address
12:30pm		Lunch & Keynote Address		
1:30pm				Opening Keynote Address
2:30pm		Session 1: The Future of Navigation and Shipping - National Level		Session 5: Communications, Coordination, Collaboration - Best Practices in Federal, Regional, and Local Level Collaboration and Community Outreach
3:30pm				
		Afternoon Break & Exhibits		Session 6: Influences on Shipping Traffic and Waterways Safety
4:30pm	Session 2: The Future of Navigation and Shipping – Innovations and Implications for Harbor Safety and Waterways Mgmt.			
5:30pm	Reception	Break Before Offsite Event		
6:30pm		Offsite Event		
7:30pm				
8:30pm				

# PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AGENDA

Tuesday, June 25, 2019

**9:00 AM – Noon - TRB Committee Meeting - Marine Safety and Human Factors (AW040) – LEGENDS 1**

Todd Ripley, Maritime Administration, *Chair*

**1:00 PM - Opening Keynote Address – DISCOVERY AB**

**Rear Admiral Paul F. Thomas, Eighth District Commander (D8), U.S. Coast Guard**

**2:00 PM - Session 1: The Future of Navigation Safety in a Dynamic Marine Transportation System – DISCOVERY AB**

Helen Brohl, U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System, *presiding*

This session will set the stage for the conference by presenting a national level discussion with current maritime transportation leaders from the Federal and private sectors with an eye toward future safety issues over the 10 to 20-year horizon within a dynamic MTS. Discussions will address environmental impacts to our inland and coastal ports, congestion in our navigation channels, competing uses within the maritime domain, and fluctuating market requirements. The panel will focus on how these factors will challenge public and private initiatives to promote a more secure and efficient system while preserving and enhancing navigation safety.

- Major General Scott Spellmon, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Rear Admiral Richard V. Timme, U.S. Coast Guard
- Rear Admiral Shepard M. Smith, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Mark Wright, American Waterways Operators
- John Groundwater, Passenger Vessel Association
- Morgan Turrell, National Transportation Safety Board

**3:30 PM - Afternoon Break & Exhibits – LEGENDS 4-7**

**4:00 PM - Session 2: The Future of Navigation and Shipping – Innovations and Implications for Harbor Safety and Waterways Management – DISCOVERY AB**

Rajiv Khandpur, U.S. Coast Guard, *presiding*

This session will discuss emerging innovations and technologies related to a number of innovations including autonomous vessels and collision avoidance, LNG fuel bunkering and infrastructure, commercial space transport and recovery on barges, and AIS real time data for critical navigation updates. The panel will discuss the current state with respect to these technologies and explore the implications on waterways management, safety, regulatory requirements, and the conceivable future state of harbor safety.

- Warren Freda, Sea Machines Robotics, Inc.
- LCDR Jason Kling, Marine Safety Detachment, USCG, Port Canaveral
- Matthew Fisher, Eagle LNG Partners
- Brian Tetreault, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

**7:30 AM - Breakfast & Exhibits - LEGENDS 4-7**

**8:30 AM - Session 3: Disaster Resilience - Learning from Past Storm Seasons to Prepare for the Future - DISCOVERY AB**

Katherine Chambers, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, *presiding*

The Marine Transportation System (MTS) and the ports and channels resident within this vast system are critical components of national economic security; facilitating the movement of U.S. goods and services within the global marketplace. When the MTS is disrupted, there is a cascading effect on the entire intermodal system, which, if not resilient and capable of responding, recovering, and adapting between disruptions, will have catastrophic impacts. Reflections on past experiences and recommendations for future improvements are critical to minimizing the impact of future disruptive events. This session utilizes broad expertise from Federal agencies, local recovery units, coordination teams, and private industry to discuss how stakeholders can implement best practices and recommendations from previous MTS disruptions.

- CDR Tim Grant, U.S. Coast Guard
- CDR Joe Leonard, (USCG-Ret.) PENTA Consortium, LLC
- Josh Murphy, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- CAPT Bob Bijur, Island Queen Cruises and Tours
- Dr. Sandra Pinel, Department of Homeland Security

**10:00 AM - Morning Break & Exhibits- LEGENDS 4-7**

**10:30 AM - Session 4: Harbor Safety Committee Management Leadership Perspectives - DISCOVERY AB**

CAPT Bill Diehl, Greater Houston Port Bureau, *presiding*

This session features leaders from regional Harbor Safety Committees that will discuss current and future maritime transportation and harbor safety issues from the perspective of their unique ports, harbors and waterways. Panelists will highlight safety activities and initiatives designed to head off incidents before they have the opportunity to cause injury, loss of life, environmental harm, and damage to assets and infrastructure.

- Captain Andrew McGovern, Sandy Hook Pilots
- CAPT J.J. Plunkett, Houston Pilots
- Captain John Strong, Jacobsen Pilot Service

**12 Noon - Keynote Luncheon – LEGENDS 4-7**

**RDML Tim Gallaudet, Ph.D. (USN Ret.), Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Deputy NOAA Administrator**

**1:30 PM - Session 5: Best Practices in Federal, Regional, and Local Level Collaboration and Community Outreach - DISCOVERY AB**

Tom Marian, Buffalo Marine Service, Inc., *presiding*

The enormous breadth and scope of our nation's marine transportation system is subject to multiple jurisdictions. With the extraordinary diversity of the stakeholders that ply the channels of the world's largest waterway system, it is not surprising that potential conflicts exist across various jurisdictional boundaries between federal agencies, states, navigation districts, municipalities, and port authorities. This session will focus on the interplay, roles and barriers associated with regulating the navigable waterways of the United States.

- CDR Jerry Butwid, U.S. Coast Guard
- Todd Gentile, Blessey Marine
- Craig Montesano, American Waterways Operators
- Steven Nerheim, U.S. Coast Guard

**3:00 - Afternoon Break & Exhibits - LEGENDS 4-7**

**3:30 PM - Session 6: Influences on Shipping Traffic and Waterways Safety - DISCOVERY AB**

Marc C. Hebert, Greater New Orleans Port Safety Council, *presiding*

The Marine Transportation System (MTS) is a dynamic environment with a wide range of competing activities which faces the challenge of growing its capacity to meet increasing demand while simultaneously absorbing greater complexity. This situation presents challenges for shared governance. In this session, panelists will discuss a number of evolving developments which illuminate this dynamic, including changes in oil movement, growing wind energy initiatives, and whale protection measures.

- Darryl Francois, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management
- Shannon Bettridge, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Suzanne Lemieux, American Petroleum Institute
- George Detweiler, U.S. Coast Guard

**Evening - Offsite Event Hosted by the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee**

Thursday, June 27, 2019

**7:30 AM - Breakfast & Exhibits - LEGENDS 4-7**

**8:30 AM - Session 7: The Role of Waterways Stakeholders in Vessel Traffic Safety and Security- DISCOVERY AB**

Eric Christensen, Passenger Vessel Association, *presiding*

Regionally, waterways experience different factors that may disrupt the system. Nationally, all stakeholders can provide lessons learned to continually improve the overall system. This session will highlight the critical role of local and national waterways stakeholder coordination to achieve a safe and secure marine transportation system..

- Brian Falk, Kirby Marine
- Matt Chambers, Bureau of Transportation Statistics
- James Andrews, Texas City Pilots
- Michael Borgström, Wendella Boats

**10:00 AM - Morning Break & Exhibits - LEGENDS 4-7**

**10:30 AM - Session 8: Continuous Improvement - Innovations in Training, Education, and Exercises - DISCOVERY AB**

John Arenstam, Seaman's Church Institute, *presiding*

This session will address mariner training practices/requirements and how providers are adjusting programs to support emerging needs and innovations. Panelists will focus on various training trends, technological adaptation, and best practices in the promotion and development of future U.S. mariners.

- RADM Mike Rodriguez, Texas A&M Maritime Academy - Galveston
- John Stauffer, San Jacinto College
- Shawn Cannon, STAR Center
- Greg Trunnell, Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS), and the Pacific Maritime Institute (PMI)
- George Burkley, Maritime Pilots Institute (MPI)

**Noon - Closing Keynote Address - DISCOVERY AB**

**Admiral Karl L. Schultz, Commandant, U.S. Coast Guard**